

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USIRJC

SUBJECT:USIRJC: PROPOSED AGENDA FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCE
COMMITTEE

REF: STATE 14279 AND TEHRAN 841

1. THE ECONOMY AND FINANCE (E AND F) COMMITTEE PROPOSES
TO HAVE MEETINGS OF ITS SUBCOMMITTEES ON FEBRUARY 23, AND
A MEETING OF THE FULL E AND F COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 24.
THE U.S. CHAIRMEN OF THE HOUSING, HEALTH, TRANSPORTATION,
AND TRADE SUBCOMMITTEES ARE EACH PREPARED TO MEET WITH
THEIR IRANIAN COUNTERPARTS ON FEBRUARY 23. WHETHER OR NOT
THEY WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO WILL HAVE TO DEPEND UPON THE
NUMBER AND COMPOSITION OF THE IRANIAN DELEGATION. (WITH
REGARD TO SHORAKA'S REQUEST (REF B), BELIEVE SUB COMMITTEES
COULD STILL MEET ON FEB. 23 SINCE SHORAKA'S PRESENCE
WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED AT THESE TECHNICAL MEETINGS. FULL
COMMITTEE COULD MEET ON 24TH AS PLANNED. THE FOLLOWING ARE
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA WITH RESPECT TO EACH SUB-
COMMITTEE:

2. HOUSING WORKING GROUP - IRANIAN HOUSING UNDERSECRETARY
DR. MANOUCHEHR VAHIDI MET WITH HUD AND COMMERCE OFFICIALS
IN WASHINGTON JANUARY 12. HIS PRINCIPAL INTEREST IS CLEARLY

HOUSING FINANCE, AND SEVERAL OF HIS MEETINGS AT HUD ADDRESSED THAT ISSUE. WHEN THE SUBJECT OF THE UPCOMING JOINT COMMISSION MEETINGS WAS RAISED, DR. VAHIDI INDICATED THAT HOUSING "WILL BE COVERED" AT THE MEETING, AND LEFT THE DOOR OPEN TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE HIMSELF MIGHT ATTEND. IN HIS MEETINGS WITH THREE HUD OFFICIALS, VAHIDI EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE HOUSING FIELD, ESPECIALLY IN FINANCING AND SUBSIDY MECHANISMS. SHOULD VAHIDI RETURN IN FEBRUARY, HUD WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH HIM SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION. OTHER WORKING GROUP MEMBERS, SUCH AS COMMERCE, WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS NEW AVENUES FOR PROVIDING IRANIAN DECISION-MAKERS WITH INFORMATION ON US HOUSING MANUFACTURERS.

3. HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE - THE CHIEF CURRENT ITEM OF BUSINESS BEFORE THE HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE IS THE EXPLORATION OF AVENUES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN IRAN FOOD AND DRUG AND THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. DR. DONALD KENNEDY, HEAD OF USFDA, HAS MET WITH DR. A.M. RAHMANI, DIRECTOR OF IRAN FOOD AND DRUG, AND PRELIMINARY INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE IRANIAN SIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED. USDA IS INTERESTED IN FURTHER COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FOOD AND DRUG CONTROL AND IS WILLING TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY THE U.S. SIDE. WE PROPOSE THAT, IF POSSIBLE, DR. RAHMANI MEET WITH DR. KENNEDY ON UNCLASSIFIED

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FEBRUARY 23 TO EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY FURTHER.

4. TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE -THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IS RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA OF HOLDING A MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 23 IF THE IRANIAN SIDE DECIDES TO INCLUDE A TRANSPORTATION OFFICIAL AS PART OF THEIR DELEGATION. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WOULD INCLUDE A REPORT ON THE FALL 1976 VISIT TO THE U.S. OF DEPUTY MINISTER OF ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION MUSAVI-NASL, THE STATUS OF COOPERATION IN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL BETWEEN THE U.S. FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AND THE GOI, AND ANY SUGGESTIONS WHICH IRAN MAY HAVE REGARDING NEW INITIATIVES IN THE TRANSPORTATION FIELD. IF IRAN WOULD PREFER NOT TO MEET ON FEBRUARY 23, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION CHESTER DAVENPORT WILL BE PREPARED TO REPORT AT THE FULL E AND F COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 24 ON THE MUSAVI-NASL VISIT AND THE STATUS OF COOPERATION IN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL.

5. TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE - USDOC HAS DISCUSSED WITH THOMAS DILLON POSSIBILITY OF MENTIONING SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF DILLON PORTION OF IMPERIAL GUARD HOUSING PROJECT

IN E AND F COMMITTEE MINUTES AND JOINT

COMMISSION COMMUNIQUE. DILLON VERY AMENABLE TO DOING SO. IF IRANIAN SIDE IS ALSO AGREEABLE, WE PROPOSE TO MENTION THIS CONTRACT AT TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING. IF IRANIANS HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS, REQUEST EMBASSY PROVIDE LANGUAGE FOR INCLUSION IN MINUTES/COMMUNIQUE WHICH REFLECTS CURRENT SITUATION. OTHER SUGGESTED ITEMS OF BUSINESS IN TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING INCLUDE THE CURRENT STATUS OF U.S.-IRAN TRADE, A REPORT ON THE RECENT PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE U.S. TO ENTER INTO SOCIAL

SECURITY TOTALIZATION AGREEMENTS (AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS), AND UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE IRAN-U.S. BUSINESS COUNCIL, INCLUDING COUNCIL'S PROPOSED STUDY OF INVESTMENT IN IRAN. FYI: IT IS OUR VIEW THAT AT THE TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE LEVEL THE REPORT ON THE BUSINESS COUNCIL SHOULD BE GIVEN BY A USG REPRESENTATIVE, TO BE FOLLOWED BY FIRST-HAND REPORT BY HARVEY KAPNICK OR OTHER REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COUNCIL'S U.S. SECTION AT THE FULL E&F COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 24. THE BRIEF SPAN OF TIME BETWEEN THE COUNCIL'S TEHRAN MEETING AND THE E&F COMMITTEE MEETING MAY MAKE THIS DIFFICULT, BUT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO WORK IT OUT. END FYI. IN THE ABSENCE OF COMMERCE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MORAN, PETER B. HALE, DIRECTOR CAGNE WILL BE CHAIRING TRADE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR U.S. SIDE. CHRISTOPHER

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